

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 OTPE-00 FCC-03

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R 182230Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9567

INFO FAA BALBOA

PANCANAL

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 0392

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PN

SUBJ: GOP PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS

BETWEEN ALBROOK AND TOCUMEN AIRPORT TO REPLACE CABLE

REF: PANAMA 239, STATE 9970

SUMMARY. FAA HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM GOP CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION ASKING IF FAA WILL MAINTAIN PROPOSED MICROWAVE INSTALLATION FOR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMUNICATION OR PERMIT GOP PERSONNEL TO HAVE ACCESS TO CANAL ZONE FOR THIS PURPOSE. FAA PROPOSES TO AGREE TO ASSUMPTION OF MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER INSTALLATION. END SUMMARY.

ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE WITH FAA PROPOSED REPLY TO GOP CIVIL AVIATION LETTER.

1. FAA HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM PANAMA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION JUAN ABAD, DATED JAN 7, 1974, WHICH REFERS TO PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF MICROWAVE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FROM FAA'S AIRDROM CONTROL CENTER TO TOCUMEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR USE OF FAA'S AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC) SERVICE PROVIDED FOR PANAMA FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR). LETTER STATES THAT CONSULTATIONS
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IN PROCESS WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS TO DETERMINE PRO-

CEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED TO PERMIT INSTALLATION OF MICROWAVE EQUIPMENT IN CANAL ZONE.

2. LETTER REQUESTS ANSWERS TO TWO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS: (1) COULD FAA PROVIDE MAINTENANCE OF MICROWAVE SYSTEM INSTALLED IN CANAL ZONE (ANCON HILL AND FAA BUILDING)? IT IS UNDERSTOOD PANAMA CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (DAC) WOULD PROVIDE NECESSARY SPARE PARTS. (2) IF REPLY TO THE FIRST QUESTION IS NEGATIVE, DAC REQUESTS FREE ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT INSTALLED IN CANAL ZONE IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY MAINTENANCE.

3. FAA PROPOSES TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY ON MAINTENANCE QUESTION (SEE REFTEL FOR ESTIMATED MAINTENANCE COSTS). FAA WILL ALSO SAY THAT ACCESS TO CANAL ZONE AREAS FOR DAC PERSONNEL (OTHER THAN NECESSARY INSTALLATION BY CONTRACTOR FURNISHING EQUIPMENT) WILL BE UNNECESSARY.

4. SINCE EXISTING ALBROOK-TOCUMEN COMMUNICATIONS CABLE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO LAST ONLY 25 YEARS (WHICH HAVE NOW ELAPSED), MICROWAVE SYSTEM SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE TO AVOID DIFFICULT MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS. THEREFORE, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPT GUIDANCE ASAP IN ORDER THAT FAA MAY RESPOND TO DAC PROPOSAL FOR MICROWAVE INSTALLATION.

5. PROCEDURE RECOMMENDED PARAGRAPH THREE ABOVE HAS CONCURRENCE OF PANCANAL, SOTHCOM AND EMBASSY WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES MET AT FAA BUILDING TO CONSIDER SUBJECT ON JAN 16 PER REFTEL.

6. QUESTION OF PROCEDURE UPON EXPIRATION OF COMMUNICATIONS CABLE AGREEMENT (PARA 4 REFTEL) WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL. SAYRE

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